

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: COMBINED MEDIA REPORT, EVENING, MARCH 19, 1975

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

NO. 35

NEWSPAPERS: LATIMES SECOND LEAD: JERUSALEM STORY BY RESTON
AND WM. DRUMMOND HEADLINED "ISRAEL AND EGYPT DEFINE
DIFFERENCES ON AGREEMENT." BEGIN TEXT: FOR THE FIRST TIME
IN THE 10-DAY ME DIPLOMATIC MISSION OF HAK, THE TOP LEADERS

OF ISRAEL AND EGYPT TUESDAY PUBLICALLY DEFINED THE SHARP
DIFFERENCES SEPARATING THE TWO NATIONS ON A NEW INTERIM
PEACE AGREEMENT.

THE SUCCESS OF THIS ROUND OF KISSINGER SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY
HINGES ON THE RESOLUTION OF THOSE DIFFERENCES. THE DISPUTE
REVOLVES AROUND EGYPT'S WILLINGNESS TO TAKE SPECIFIC STEPS
TOWARD NORMALIZING RELATIONS IN THE AREA IN EXCHANGE FOR
STRATEGIC ISRAELI MILITARY WITHDRAWALS IN THE SINAI. END
TEXT.

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ISRAELI EMPHASIS ON "REAL MOVES" IN THE AREA OF ARAB ATTITUDE NOTED. HAK ARRIVED WITH "NEW CONSIDERATIONS AND IDEAS" FROM SADAT. AFTER MEETING WITH ISRAELI TEAM HAK DISAGREED THAT SHUTTLE WAS AT DEAD END. ON THE

CONTRARY, TALKS CONTINUE TO MAKE PROGRESS.

JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH SADAT CITED ON TRADE, NON-BELLIGERENCY, FINAL SOLUTION AT GENEVA. SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL ON PLANE CITED SAYING THAT OTHER ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT BE INCLUDED, APPARENTLY REFERRING TO ISRAELI LIST OF STEPS TO NORMALIZATION. SENIOR OFFICIALS SUGGEST THESE MIGHT BE ONLY UNDERSTANDINGS, NOT WRITTEN DOWN. IRONY IS THAT BOTH SIDES SEEM TO AGREE ON SUBSTANCE OF AGREEMENT, BUT NOT ON THE FORM, SPECIFICALLY PUBLIC PRESENTATION. HAK BELIEVES GAP HAS NARROWED, BOTH SIDES WILL HAVE TO ASSESS THEIR POSITIONS CAREFULLY IN NEXT DAYS. HAK ALSO FEELS SECRECY FAVORS PROGRESS, AND AMERICAN PROPOSALS ARE NOT NECESSARY YET. ONLY WHEN ONE SIDE WILL ACCEPT A U.S. INITIATIVE TO NARROW THE FINAL GAP WOULD IT BE USEFUL TO OFFER ONE.

WIRES

1. AP - SCHWEID FROM RIYADH BEGIN TEXT: SECSTATE HAK WAS UNDERSTOOD TODAY TO BE CONVINCED HE WOULD NOT HAVE NEGOTIATED THE PARIS AGREEMENTS OF 1973 HAD HE ANTICIPATED CONGRESSIONAL CUTBACKS IN MILITARY AID TO SVN AND CAMBODIA ... THE CEASEFIRE WAS VIOLATED CONSTANTLY FROM THE START AND MOST OTHER PROVISIONS FOR MONITORING THE PEACE AND RESOLVING CONFLICTS HAVE BEEN IGNORED. HAK HAS APPEALED STRONGLY AGAINST AID CUTBACKS BY THE U.S. CONGRESS AND HAS WARNED OF SERIOUS FOREIGN POLICY SETBACKS OF THE COMMUNISTS ADVANCE IN SE ASIA.

IN HIS CURRENT TRAVELS THROUGH THE ME TO NEGOTIATE NEW DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND HER NEIGHBORS, HAK HAS BEEN HEARING FROM BOTH SIDES REFERENCES TO U.S. SETBACKS IN SE ASIA. END TEXT.

HAK ASKED DEPARTMENT TO SEND HIM HANOI ARTICLE ON CURRENT OFFENSIVE, WHICH REPORTEDLY DESCRIBES U.S. AS NO LONGER UNCLASSIFIED

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CAPABLE OF INTERVENING FOR SAIGON. ME LEADERS WHO REFERRED TO SE ASIA INCLUDE ASSAD, WHO TOLD HAK "YOU HAVE GIVEN UP ON CAMBODIA, YOU HAVE GIVEN UP ON TAIWAN, AND YOU WILL GIVE UP ON ISRAEL." ISRAELIS EXPRESSING GROWING LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN U.S. ASSURANCES, INCLUDING IRAN PROMISE TO GIVE OIL AFTER RETURN OF ABU RUDEIS FIELDS.

2. UPI FROM RIYADH SAYS HAK TALKS FRUITFUL AND SUCCESSFUL

BUT NO COMMENT OF STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS AS HE LEFT TO RETURN TO ISRAEL. SAUDI SOURCES CITED SAYING HAK CLARIFIED U.S. POSITION ON OIL PRICES AND USE OF FORCE.

LATER STORY DATED JERUSALEM SAYS HAK GAVE A PUBLIC ASSURANCE TO SAUDIS THAT U.S. NOT THREATENING MILITARY FORCE

AGAINST OILFIELDS. DURING TRIP BACK TO JERUSALEM, SOME PESSIMISM FELT ON PLANE ABOUT MILITARY SITUATION IN SE ASIA, POSSIBILITY THAT HAK HAND WAS WEAKENED BY DOUBTS OF U.S. LONGTERM COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL.

SENIOR OFFICIAL CITED SAYING HAK ATTEMPTS TO BRING ABOUT NEW AGREEMENT IN ME MORE SLOWLY THAN HE HAD EXPECTED. MAIN HANGUP SAID TO BE PRICE EGYPT WILL PAY FOR RETURN OF ITS PASSES AND OILFIELDS. ISRAELI CABINET WAS IN ITS SECOND MEETING WHEN HAK ARRIVED; RABIN EXPECTED TO GIVE THE ISRAELI ANSWER WEDNESDAY NITE OR THURSDAY MORN.

3. LATE AP FROM RIYADH - STORY ON HAK ASSURANCES OF NO MILITARY INTERVENTION FOR OILFIELDS, SAME AS UPI.

TV

1. ABC - REASONER: SECRETARY KISSINGER WAS REPORTED TODAY TO HAVE INDICATED TODAY HE WOULD HAVE NEVER NEGOTIATED THE VIETNAM PEACE AGREEMENT IF HE HAD EXPECTED THAT DIFFICULTY IN GETTING ADEQUATE MILITARY AID FOR INDOCHINA THROUGH THE CONGRESS. MEANWHILE, THERE WAS A HOPEFUL NOTE IN KISSINGER'S CURRENT ME SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY - ON THE EVE OF HIS ARRIVAL IN EGYPT, THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT ISSUED A STATEMENT IMPLYING IT IS UNCLASSIFIED

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READY TO RENOUNCE THE USE OF FORCE AGAINST ISRAEL AS LONG AS A NEW MILITARY DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, IF ONE IS ACHIEVED, REMAINS IN EFFECT. (NO KOPPEL.)

2. NBC - CHANCELLOR: THERE WAS A POSSIBLY SIGNIFICANT PEACE DEVELOPMENT TODAY IN EGYPT WHILE SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER WAS DISCUSSING PEACE WITH THE ISRAELIS IN JERUSALEM. THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT MADE AN IMPLICIT PROMISE NOT TO USE FORCE AGAINST ISRAEL FOR THE DURATION OF ANY NEW TROOP DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. THE GOVERNMENT STATEMENT PUT IT THIS WAY: IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE PARTIES CONCERNED DO NOT RESORT TO THE USE OF FORCE AS LONG AS THE PROVISIONS OF A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT ARE VALID. NO VALERIANI AND NO MENTION OF SECRETARY.

3. CBS - ROGER MUDD: THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT SAID LATE TODAY IT WOULD NOT USE FORCE AGAINST ISRAEL SO LONG AS A NEW SINAI TROOP DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WAS IN FORCE. THE GOVERNMENT STATEMENT APPARENTLY WAS DESIGNED TO PLACATE ISRAEL, WHICH IS DEMANDING FROM EGYPT AN EXPLICIT NON-BELLIGERENCY PROMISE, SOMETHING EGYPT HAS REFUSED TO MAKE. SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER IS IN ISRAEL NOW, RETURNS TO EGYPT TOMORROW. MORE ON KISSINGER'S PEACE EFFORT FROM MARVIN KALB:

KALB: THIS NEGOTIATION HANGS ON THE EDGE OF FAILURE AND WHEN KISSINGER MET TODAY WITH PM RABIN, BOTH MEN KNEW THAT MAJOR COMPROMISES HERE AND IN EGYPT WOULD BE NEEDED TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK AND PRODUCE A DEAL. CBS NEWS

LEARNED THAT THERE ARE 3 LARGE AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT: FIRST, ISRAEL WANTS THE DEMILITARIZATION OF ALL AREAS TO BE EVACUATED. EGYPT AGREES ONLY TO A NARROW BUFFER ZONE, SO HER ARMIES CAN TAKE CONTROL OF THE STRATEGIC PASSES. SECOND, ISRAEL WANTS THE UN TROOPS TO HAVE AN INDEFINITE MANDATE. EGYPT AGREES ONLY TO A ONE YEAR MANDATE, WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF A SECOND YEAR. THIRD, ISRAEL STILL INSISTS ON THE NINE ELEMENTS OF NON-BELLIGERENCY. EGYPT REJECTS THIS CONCEPT THOUGH

UNOFFICIALLY SHE MIGHT ACCEPT A FEW OF THE ELEMENTS.
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BY THE TIME THE ISRAELI CABINET MET IN LENGTHY AND EXTRAORDINARY SESSION, EVERYONE RECOGNIZED THAT THE GAP BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES WAS CONSIDERABLE. ONE SOURCE SAID THE ISRAELIS WERE GRAPPLING WITH THE DOMESTIC CONSEQUENCES OF COMPROMISE AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE. WHILE THE ISRAELIS DELIBERATED, KISSINGER FLEW OFF TO SAUDI ARABIA, THE USUAL ARAB STYLE EMBRACE, A PRELUDE TO A TWO-HOUR MEETING WITH KING FAISAL. THE SECRETARY GIVING HIM A FILL-IN ON THE STALLED NEGOTIATION, BUT MAKING A SPECIAL POINT OF ASSURING HIM THAT THE U.S. DOES NOT PLAN TO ATTACK SAUDI ARABIA IN ORDER TO INSURE A STEADY FLOW OF ARAB OIL.

LATE TONIGHT KISSINGER RETURNED TO ISRAEL WORRIED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE COLLAPSE OF THIS NEGOTIATION, AND PERSUADED THAT THE WEAKENING OF AMERICA'S RESOLVE IN INDOCHINA, CONGRESS' RELUCTANCE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL AID, MAKES IT THAT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO GET AN AGREEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THAT SOUNDS VERY SELF-SERVING, BUT IT IS THE SECRETARY'S POSITION.

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